

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) held its plenary meeting (ISC21) July 12-15 and 19 (Pacific Standard Time) by webinar and agreed to conservation advice for northern stocks. A benchmark stock assessment for blue marlin and an indicator analysis for shortfin mako shark were reviewed and adopted. ISC21 also reviewed and endorsed the final results of the North Pacific albacore management strategy evaluation (MSE) and discussed progress on the development of an MSE for Pacific bluefin tuna. Attachment 1 is the meeting report (electronic only).

The Joint Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) Joint Working on Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna held its sixth meeting (JWG6) July 26-28 (Pacific Daylight Time) by webinar (Attachment 2 is the meeting report). JWG6 agreed to proposed amendments to the current IATTC Resolution C-020-02 and WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2020-02 for the management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the respective Convention Areas. For the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), JWG6 recommended a 15 percent increase in the current catch limit plus an additional 200 mt increase intended to begin addressing the balance of fishing opportunity between the EPO and WCPO. The WCPO has a more complicated management framework with separate national catch limits for small fish (<30 kg) and large fish (≥30 kg). Catch limits for large fish would increase by 15 percent with no increase in small fish catch limits. Portions of small fish catch limits can be transferred to catch large fish, recognizing that catch of large fish has relatively less impact – on a per fish basis – on stock status over the long term (see Annex C in Attachment 2 for details). JWG6 also reviewed and endorsed a proposal submitted by the U.S. for draft harvest control rules for the second rebuilding period that is described in the Harvest Strategy ([HS 2017-02](#) and [C-18-02](#)). (For details see Annex D in Attachment 2).

The ISC submitted a report to JWG6, *Update on Management Strategy Evaluation of Pacific Bluefin Tuna* (Attachment 3), which encourages the JWG to oversee the development of management objectives and a management framework particularly addressing methods to operationalize allocation of harvest opportunity between the EPO and WCPO. ISC also reiterated that it currently lacks the capacity to conduct such an MSE while also completing the Pacific bluefin tuna update stock assessment scheduled for 2022. It requests support of two analysts, one based in the EPO region and one in the WCPO region to lead the MSE process.

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Co-Chair of the JWG, will brief the Council on these matters.

The IATTC will hold its 98th meeting August 23-27 by webinar. The focus of this meeting is to adopt resolutions covering both tropical tuna and Pacific bluefin management since current Resolutions expire at the end of this year. The U.S. has submitted proposals for amendments to these Resolutions plus Resolution C-16-08 on long-term Pacific bluefin management (see the [meeting website](#)). The latter addresses the aforementioned harvest control rules for the second rebuilding period referenced above. The IATTC has also proposed a continuation of its 98th meeting October 11-15 to address issues not covered during the August meeting.

The WCPFC NC is scheduled to hold its 17th Regular Session October 5-7 (Japan Standard Time) by webinar. According to the [agenda](#), the NC will consider amendments to CMMs for Pacific bluefin, North Pacific albacore, and North Pacific swordfish. It will also consider amendments to the North Pacific albacore Harvest Strategy (HS-2017-01) in light of the MSE results.

The Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC), which advises the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission, is scheduled to meet by webinar October 13-15. Dr. Kit Dahl serves as an ex-officio member of the PAC on behalf of the Council. Council member Ms. Christa Svensson serves as an alternate WCPFC Commissioner. PAC recommendations adopted at this meeting will feed into the development of U.S. positions for the 17th Regular Session of the WCPFC currently scheduled November 29-December 7 online.

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1: Report of the Twenty-First Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (***Electronic Only***).
2. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 2: Chairs' Summary of the 6th Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna.
3. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 3: Update on Management Strategy Evaluation of Pacific Bluefin Tuna.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.2 International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Report on the Joint Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission – Northern Committee Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Dorothy Lowman
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

PFMC
08/12/21